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Seeking the Kingdom of God First

In the grand tapestry of scripture, the call to seek the Kingdom of God first stands as a golden thread, weaving through the Old and New Testaments, binding the narrative of faith into a cohesive whole. From the law of Moses to the wisdom of the prophets, from the poetry of the Psalms to the parables of Christ, this singular pursuit has echoed through the ages, a clarion call to prioritize the divine will above all earthly concerns.

Matthew 6:33, with its profound simplicity, encapsulates the essence of this pursuit, urging

believers to place the Kingdom and its righteousness at the forefront of their lives, with the assurance that all other needs shall be met. Daniel, in his unwavering devotion, exemplified this principle, praying towards Jerusalem even when faced with the lion's den, as recounted in Daniel 6:11. His faithfulness was not just a personal stance but a testament to the enduring sovereignty of God's Kingdom.

The narrative of 1 Kings 18:10 and 1 Chronicles 15:13 further illustrates the importance of seeking God's rule first, showing that even in times of drought and peril, or during the critical task of transporting the Ark of the Covenant, the Lord's

preeminence remained paramount. The prophets, too, spoke of this priority; Isaiah's prayer in Isaiah 37:16 and the return to Jerusalem in Ezra 7:9 both highlight a collective yearning for God's righteous reign.

The New Testament continues this theme, with Jesus Himself affirming in Matthew 21:31 and Luke 12:31 that the pursuit of God's Kingdom supersedes all else. The early church, as depicted in Acts, faced trials and tribulations, yet they persevered, seeking the Kingdom as they spread the gospel, as seen in Acts 14:22. Paul's letters to the Galatians and Ephesians, particularly Galatians 5:21 and Ephesians 2:2, remind believers that the

flesh and the prince of the power of the air are at enmity with the Kingdom's values.

The book of Esther, though it does not mention God explicitly, demonstrates through Esther 10:3 that seeking the welfare of God's people aligns with Kingdom principles. Similarly, the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah, in Jeremiah 11:10 and Isaiah 16:5, lament the forsaking of the covenant and yearn for a throne established in steadfast love.

In every instance, the call to seek the Kingdom first is a call to align one's life with God's overarching story of redemption and restoration. It is an invitation to trust in the providence of the

Almighty, to live in a manner worthy of the gospel, and to hold fast to the promise that those who do so will inherit the blessings of the Kingdom, both now and in the age to come. This pursuit is not merely a spiritual exercise but a transformative journey that shapes every aspect of existence, guiding the believer towards an eternal horizon where righteousness dwells and God's perfect will is manifest. It is the heart of discipleship, the essence of wisdom, and the very purpose of life itself.